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Docket No.: R2184.0312/P312  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Hiroyoshi Funato et al.

Application No.: 10/830,021

Confirmation No.: 7637

Filed: April 23, 2004

Art Unit: N/A

For: DIFFRACTION GRATING, METHOD  
OF PRODUCING IT, METHOD OF  
DUPLICATING IT, OPTICAL HEAD  
DEVICE EMPLOYING IT AND  
OPTICAL DISK DRIVE APPARATUS  
EMPLOYING THE OPTICAL HEAD  
DEVICE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
220 20th Street S.  
Customer Window  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

Copies of the references on the PTO/SB/08 are not provided.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Application Numbers:

Application Number	Date Filed
08/429,070	April 26, 1995
08/429,077	April 26, 1995
07/947,180	September 18, 1992
07/826,618 (abandoned)	January 28, 1992
07/724,483 (abandoned)	June 28, 1991
07/435,977 (abandoned)	November 13, 1989
07/406,846	September 13, 1989
07/119,856	November 12, 1987
06/565,817	December 27, 1983
06/482,575	April 6, 1983
06/455,629	January 4, 1983
05/716,620	August 23, 1976

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter

Application No.: 10/845,406

Docket No.: R2184.0318/P318

filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1073, under Order No. R2184.0312/P312. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: August 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By Megan M. Sunkel

Mark J. Thronson

Registration No.: 33,082

Megan M. Sunkel

Registration No.: 53,655

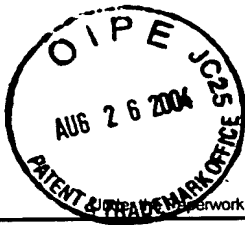
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Attorney for Applicant



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)  
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/830,021      Conf.# 7637
				Filing Date	April 23, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Hiroyoshi Funato et al.
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	R2184.0312/P312
Sheet	1	of	2		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	US-2004-0001166	01/01/2004	Nimura et al.	
	AB	US-2004-0021811	02/05/2004	Matsuki et al.	
	AC	US-2004-0013076	01/22/2004	Funato et al.	
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				Filing Date	April 23, 2004	
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				Art Unit	N/A	
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	R2184.0312/P312	

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	AU1	US-4,637,679	01/20/1987	Funato	
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	AD2	US-6,613,715	09/02/03	Kutami et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)					

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

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